

CLAIMS

1. A method for speech synthesis of a word (20) in a first language (A), comprising:

5 dividing said word (20) into a first sequence (21) of pronunciation phonemes in said first language (A),

mapping said first phoneme sequence (21) to a second sequence (22) of pronunciation phonemes in at least one second language (B), and

10 generating an audio output (23) of the phonemes in said second phoneme sequence (22) using prosody models for said at least one second language (B).

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising selecting said at least one second language 15 (B) in dependence of said first language (A).

3. The method in claim 1, wherein said second sequence (22) of phonemes belong to a plurality of different languages.

20 4. The method according to claims 1, wherein said mapping is performed so as to optimize the sound correspondence between said first and said second sequence (21, 22) of phonemes.

25 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said mapping includes using a look-up table.

30 6. The method in claim 1, wherein said prosody models are provided by a text-to-speech (TTS) engine (11) adapted for said at least one second language (B).

35 7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising smoothening transitions between different phonemes in said second phoneme sequence (22).

8. A computer program product, loadable into memory (3) of a computer (2), said computer program product comprising computer code portions (11, 13, 15) for performing the method according to claim 1 when 5 executed by said computer.

9. The computer program product in claim 8, stored on a computer readable medium (3).

10 10. A speech synthesizer (6) for speech synthesis of a word (20) in a first language (A) comprising:  
a pronunciation module (11) for dividing said word (20) into a first sequence (21) of pronunciation phonemes in said first language (A),  
15 processing means (13) for mapping said first phoneme sequence (21) to a second sequence (22) of pronunciation phonemes in at least one second language (B), and  
a speech synthesis engine (15) for generating an audio output (23) of the phonemes in said second phoneme 20 sequence (22) using prosody models for said at least one second language (B).

11. The speech synthesizer in claim 10, wherein 25 said processing means (13) has access to a look-up table (17).

12. The speech synthesizer in claim 11, wherein said look-up table is stored in a memory (3).

30 13. The speech synthesizer in claim 10, further comprising post processing means, for smoothening transitions between different phonemes in said second phoneme sequence (22).

35 14. A communication device comprising a speech synthesizer (6) according to claim 10.

15. The communication device in claim 14, further comprising a voice recognition system (5).